

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An aluminum pigment containing aluminum particles, a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate covering the surface of each of said aluminum particles ~~and~~, a silica coat and a silane coupling agent coat comprising amorphous silica further covering said molybdenum coat.

2. (Original) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

3. (Original) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein the content of silicon is in the range of 1 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The aluminum pigment according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein said silane coupling agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

$R_A - Si(OR_B)_3$  and  $R_A - SiR_B(OR_B)_2$ , wherein

$R_A$  is an alkyl group or an aryl group or an alkenyl group, having 2 to 18 carbon atoms  
and

$R_B$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A resin composition comprising the aluminum pigment according to claim 1 and a resin, wherein the content of said aluminum pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 30 percent by mass of overall said resin composition.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment including the steps of:

forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each said aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound;

forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound; and

forming a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on the surface of said silica coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said silica coat, said silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said silane coupling agent.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles each having a molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound, a silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound and said silane coupling agent for forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle while forming a coat prepared from said silane coupling agent thereon.